

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 IO-13 /081 W
-----151009Z 036319 /11

R 150800Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3870
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1355

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE HOST BANQUET FOR ZIA

REF: DACCA 0140

1. THE PRC EMBASSY HOSTED A BANQUET IN DACCA MARCH 14
HONORING GENERAL ZIA FOR HIS VISIT TO CHINA IN EARLY
JANUARY (REFTEL). IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS, CHINESE
CHARGE D'AFFAIRS MOU PING SAID THAT IN THE PAST YEAR,
BANGLADESH UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL ZIA "HAD
PERSISTED IN SAFEGUARDING HER NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND
STATE SOVEREIGNTY, DEFYING BRUTALITIES AND PRESSURES."
PING DECLARED THAT CHINA SUPPORTS BANGLADESH'S "JUST
STRUGGLE...AGAINST OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE." HE ADDED THAT
"WE FIRMLY SUPPORT THE REASONABLE STAND TAKEN BY
BANGLADESH ON THE QUESTION OF SHARING THE WATERS OF THE
GANGES RIVER." REFERRING TO GENERAL ZIA'S VISIT TO CHINA,
PING SAID THAT "VIEWED FROM THE WORLD REPERCUSSIONS" AS
WELL AS THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS
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BETWEEN CHINA AND BANGLADESH, THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
VISIT "WAS BECOMING MORE AND MORE EVIDENT."

2. GENERAL ZIA REPLIED IN HIS SPEECH THAT "WE ARE DETER-
MINED TO ESTABLISH OUR RIGHTS ON GANGES WATERS AND DRIVE
AWAY THE MISCREANTS.." HE SAID FURTHER THAT "WE ARE PREPARED
TO PAY ANY PRICE... TO UPHOLD OUR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVER-

EIGHTY." ZIA ALSO DECLARED THAT HE HAD BEEN HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE PRESENT CHINESE LEADERSHIP, PARTICULARLY THAT OF CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. ZIA THANKED THE CHINESE DIPLOMATS FOR THE "WARM HOSPITALITY" EXTENDED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND CONCLUDED THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BRING THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SPEECHES CONTAINED NOTHING BUT FAMILIAR RHETORIC, THE BANQUET, COMING AS IT DID ON THE HEELS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO IRAN, GAVE ZIA YET ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY HIS GROWING CREDENTIALS AS AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN. THE UNEQUIVOCAL CHINESE SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH'S TWO MAJOR EXTERNAL PROBLEMS, FARAKKA AND MISCREANTS, MUST ALSO HAVE BEEN MUSIC TO ZIA'S EARS. MASTERS

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